Amherst County offers an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, boating, fishing, picnicking, and more. Couple these things with such renowned scenic assets as the George Washington National Forest, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Appalachian Trail, and you’ll discover why Amherst County is “Beauty in the Blue Ridge.”

1. Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area
   Located in the George Washington National Forest, it offers solitude and serenity and is also very popular for fishing and hiking.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 18 miles, turn R on Rt. 634 (Edgewood Rd.); 1.6 miles, turn R on Rt. 735 (Wiggins Spring Rd.); follow signs.

2. Blue Ridge Parkway
   America’s Favorite Drive” winds its way 469 miles through mountain meadows and past seemingly endless vistas.
   Access the Parkway on Rt. 60 and Rt. 130/501.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 22 miles, Blue Ridge Parkway entrance is on the right.

3. Panther Falls
   Accessible with just a short hike from your vehicle.
   Directions: From Amherst Traffic Circle, Rt. 60 West 16.4 miles; night L at Reserve Rd., 2.0 miles; turn R toward Panther Falls Rd., 2.0 miles; night L at Panther Falls Rd.; 6 miles; turn R to stay on Panther Falls Rd.; 7 mile.

4. Staton Creek Falls
   Breathtaking beauty and a half-mile thrill for the white water enthusiast. This is just one of several fine steep creeks in the Nelson/Amherst County region.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle, 15.3 miles; turn right at Rt. 605 (Powells River Road); 1.9 miles; turn right at 60-630; 1 mile.

5. Long Mountain Wayside
   Nestled in the George Washington National Forest where the Appalachian Trail crosses Rt. 60, this popular site provides a welcome rest and picnic area for both vehicle and pedestrian travelers.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 17 miles, Wayside is on the right. Appalachian Trail crosses Rt. 60 at this location.

6. ThrasHERS Lake Park
   This 36-acre watershed lake open for fishing only has a boat ramp (no gas-powered boats allowed), picnic and play area, and restrooms.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 6 miles, turn R on Rt. 778 (Lowesville Rd.); 2.3 miles, turn L on Rt. 610 (Sandridge Rd.); 1.4 miles, turn R on Rt. 617 (ThrasHERS Creek Rd.); 3 mile, turn R on Rt. 829 (ThrasHERS Lake Rd.).

7. Stonehouse Lake Park
   Resting on a 41-acre watershed lake for fishing only, the park offers a boat ramp (no gas-powered boats allowed), restrooms, a picnic pavilion, grills and a play area.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 6 miles, turn R on Rt. 778 (Lowesville Rd.); 2.3 miles, turn L on Rt. 610 (Sandridge Rd.); 3 mile, turn R onto Rt. 829 (Sandridge Rd.); 2.0 mile, turn L onto Rt. 830 (Stonehouse Lake Rd.).

8. Mill Creek Lake Park
   Resting on a 190-acre watershed lake for fishing only, the park offers a boat ramp (no gas-powered boats allowed), restrooms, picnic tables, grills and a play area.
   Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 6 miles, R on Rt. 778 (Lowesville Rd.); 1.9 miles, turn R on Rt. 619 (Carverton Rd.); 1.0 mile, turn L on Rt. 645 (Mill Creek Lake Rd.); 3 mile into park.

Brought to you by the Amherst County Recreation & Parks Department
(434) 946-9371
www.countyofamherst.com

Amherst County Parks & Trails Guide

[Image of people enjoying outdoor activities]

Amherst County Recreation & Parks Department
P.O. Box 556, Amherst, VA 24521
(434) 946-9371
How to get there...

**Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail**

The trail follows the banks of the Pinyon and Tye Rivers along the path of the longest running, commercially successful short-line railway in America.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; 7 mile turn L onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Business South (Madison Heights); 10.8 miles turn L onto Rt. 64 E (before crossing bridge); 1 mile make L onto Rocky Hill Rd.; 1 mile turn L onto river access.

**Riveredge Park**

Located on the James River, this park offers boat and fishing access. Plans are underway for further construction of a biking trail and fishing pier.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; 5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Bus. South (Madison Heights); 10.8 mile turn L onto Rt. 64 E (before crossing bridge); 1 mile make L onto Rocky Hill Rd.; 1 mile turn L onto river access.

**Sweet Briar College Trails**

Situated on Sweet Briar College’s 3,250 acres are 20 miles of winding trails designed for the enjoyment of hikers and cyclists.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; 5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Business South (Madison Heights); 25 mile turn R onto Sweet Briar College; 5 mile turn R onto Florence Elston Inn and request trail guide.

**Monacan Park**

Located on the James River, this park offers a boat ramp and small dock, a covered picnic pavilion, a play area for children, and restrooms.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; 5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Bus. South (Madison Heights); 0.3 mile turn L onto Rt. 130 West; 5.8 miles, turn L onto Monacan Park Rd.; 2.7 miles, Monacan Park on the left.

**Coolwell Park**

This recreational park has a picnic and play area, restrooms, all-purpose fields, basketball courts, radio-controlled raceway, a nature trail, and an outdoor amphitheater.

Directions: Travel Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; 0.5 mile turn L onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Business South (Madison Heights); 4.3 mile turn L onto R. Coolwell Road; 2.5 mile, Park is on R.

**James River Heritage Trail**

Coming out of Lynchburg (off of Percival’s Island) into Amherst County, this blacktop trail extends another 1.5 miles along the James River for hikers and bikers.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 1 mile turn R onto Riverwalk (Amherst); 0.2 mile, Riverwalk entrance and parking lot.

**Atv Trails**

A looping network of approximately 19 miles of trails designed for the recreational all-terrain vehicle rider.

Directions: Travel Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; 5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Bus. South (Madison Heights); 0.3 mile turn R onto Rt. 130 West; 16.8 mile, turn R off of Rt. 130.

**James River Foot Bridge/Appalachian Trail**

This abandoned railroad bridge /turned impressive pedestrian causeway spans the James River, serving hikers, as well as bird and wildlife watchers.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 1 mile turn R onto Riverwalk (Amherst); 0.2 mile turn L unto Riverwalk; 0.2 mile, Riverwalk entrance and parking lot.

**Monacan County/Visitor Park**

No alcoholic beverages allowed in county/private parks. Parks open one hour after sunrise and close one hour before sunset.

Directions to all locations begin at the Town of Amherst’s Traffic Circle located at the intersection of Main St. (US 29 Bus.) and Rt. 60.

**National Park Service**

Please visit www.nps.gov for specific information on park hours and policies.

**CouNty/Private Park**

No alcoholic beverages allowed in county/private parks. Parks open one hour after sunrise and close one hour before sunset.